Nuclear Policy

1722. SHRI GURUDAS DAS-GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether after conducting five under ground nuclear tests successfully there is any change in the Government's nuclear policy and on the question of signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government keeps the country's nuclear policy under constant review. Following the recent nuclear tests at Pok-hran on May 11 and 13, 1998, Government are in the process of reviewing the nuclear policy of the country. Government have declared that India would be willing to consider being an adherent to some of the undertakings of the CTBT. However, Government has stated that these decisions cannot be taken in a vacuum but would depend upon reciprocal responses. Government has also announced that India will observe a volun-taiy moratorium and refrain from conducting underground nucelar test explo-sions.

Agreement between UN Secretary-General and Iraq

1723. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agreement negotiated by the U.N. Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan with the Iraqi President, Sactam Hussein; and

(b) the reaction of Govenrment thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) The UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Tariq Aziz in Baghdad on February 23, 1998. The main features of the agreement are as follows:

(i) The agreement reaffirms the commitment of all member States "to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq'.

(ii) Iraq has undertaken to provide the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM), seeking to locate and eliminate weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in Iraq in terms of earlier UN Security Council resolutions, "immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access" to all sites, while, on its part, UNSCOM has undertaken to respect the legitimate concerns of Iraq relating to national security, sovereignty and dignity.

(iii) It provides that the inspection of the Presidential sites to obtain evidence of possible WMD programmes shall be done under "special procedures" which shall include the setting up of a "Special Group" by the UN Secretary General for the inspection of these sites; this group will consist of diplomats as wcil as UNSCOM inspectors and will be headed by a Commissioner appointed by the UN Secretary General.

(iv) The special group will operate under the established procedures of UNSCOM and will also develop "specific detailed procedures" pertaining to its functioning.

(v) The MoU refers to "the progress made by UNSCOM in various disarmament areas" and reaffirms the commitment of both the UN and the Iraqi Government to speed-up the inspeciton process. The Agreement notes that the lifting of sane-

tions against Iraq "is of paramount importance" to the people and Government of Iraq; the UN Secretary-General has undertaken to bring this matter to the attention of the UN Security Council.

(b) India welcomed the signing of the MoU which defused the crisis relating to Iraq in January-February, 1998. India had opposed the use of force in this regard, since it would be counter-productive and would not meet the objectives of the UN in Iraq.

कनाडा स्थित भारतीय दूतावास के पद् धारियों गातिविधियां

1724. श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवेः क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या भारत सरकार को कनाडा स्थित भारतीय दूतावास के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी तथा एक महिला अधिकारी के विरुद्व पिछले वर्ष के दौरान संदिग्ध गतिविधियों तथा राष्ट्र विरोधी प्रवृतियों में संलिप्त होने के संबंध में कोई शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है और क्या इस संबंध में अभि तक कोई जांच की गई है; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा विदेशों में भारतीय दूतावासों में कार्यरत उन कार्मिकों के विरूद्व क्या कार्यवाही करने पर विचार किया जा रहा है जो भारत की छवि को बदरंग कर रहे है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) कनाडा स्थित भारतीय दूतावास के कर्मचारी के काम करने के तरीके के बारे में कुछ शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं।

(ख) इस मामले की सक्रियता से जांच-पड़ताल की जा रही है।

(ग) यदि विदेशों में भारतीय दूतावासों के कार्मिक देश की छवि को धूमिल करने की गतिविधियों में संलिप्त पाए जाते हैं तो उनके विरुद्व लागू नियमों और प्रक्रियाओं के अनुसार उपयुक्त अनुशासनिक कार्रवाई की जाती है।

Charges made by China against India

1725. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Times of India dated 19th May, 1998 under the heading "Beijing says India had attacked China in 1962";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to repudiate the false charges against India and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) On 18 May, 1998, Xinhua, the official news agency of China put out a commentary which stated that after Inde-pedence, "Indian Government kept pushing forward its northern boundary and occupied some 90,000 square kilometers of Chinese territory in between the traditional line in the eastern sector of the border and the McMohan Line". It said that in October 1962, "the Indian Government continued to pursue its policy of expansionism and started a large-scale war of invasion against China". The commentary said that Chinese troops fought back in self-defence and then withdrew on their own initiative and called for resumption of negotiations to seek a peaceful end to the border conflict.

(b) India's position in regard to the India-China boundary question is well known. China is in occupation of 38,000 square kilometers of Indian territory in the Western sector, including the Aksai Chin region of J&K. In addition, 5,180 square kilometers of territory of POK was ceded illegally by Pakistan to China under their so-called boundary agreement of 1963. Government have consistently rejected the Chinese claim to 90,000 square kilometers of Indian territory in the eastern sector in Arunachal Pradesh which is an integral part of India.

India and China are committed to work towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question.